

SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
U.S.-RUSSIA BICENTENNIAL VIDEO
NOVEMBER 5, 2009
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Good evening everyone. It is an honor to send you greetings and warm wishes on this historic occasion: the 200th anniversary of relations between our two nations. It was on this day in 1809 that John Quincy Adams, son of our second president and a future president himself, presented his credentials to the Tsar as the first ambassador from the United States to Russia. Taking long walks together they became friends and allies, and so too did our two nations.

Over 200 hundred years the U.S.-Russia relationship has evolved – from the powerful alliance of the Second World War to the tense balance of the Cold War to the renewed hope of a young century. Today we are resetting our relationship once defined by the shadow of mutually assured destruction into one based on mutual respect and, increasingly, mutual trust. We are working to find common ground and together meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21st century.

At their meeting in Moscow in July, our two Presidents reaffirmed old bonds of respect and set forward an agenda that will enhance the security and prosperity of all our people. And I was privileged to visit Russia in October to continue that process with Foreign Minister Lavrov. Like John Quincy Adams, I am a great admirer of Russia and its people and I look forward to working together to strengthen and deepen our partnership, for just as we honor our shared past today, we know that the future will be shared as well. And I am confident that if we face that future together, it will be both peaceful and prosperous.

Thank you and, please, enjoy a wonderful celebration.